

Croydon Climate Crisis Commission – Terms of Reference

Background

In June 2019 Croydon Council declared a climate and ecological emergency and undertook to implement a process for acting on this declaration by commissioning a climate citizens' assembly and developing a Climate Crisis Commission. The Council founded an independent Commission that will work in collaboration with the Council and the wider community, involve expert advice, and engage and co-produce with the people of Croydon, with the aim of driving forward radical action to decarbonise the local economy¹ in a just and fair way.

Croydon Council partnered with the New Economics Foundation to set up the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission.

The Commission was launched on 12 March 2020, shortly before the country entered lockdown in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The Commission will meet as the impacts of the pandemic and resulting economic challenges are starting to become clear.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission is to drive rapid reductions in the carbon emissions from activities in the Borough of Croydon, targeting carbon neutral by 2030. Critically, the Commission aims to ensure the transition to zero carbon happens in a fair and just way, providing good quality jobs, improving wellbeing, and reducing inequality. This will be considered in the context of building back an economy that achieves these aims, following the lockdown in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Commission's short term purpose is to produce an action plan, developed with the people of Croydon, to show how the borough of Croydon can become carbon neutral by 2030. This action plan will be delivered to the Council, who will also be considering how to respond to the economic challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic. In order to produce the action plan the Commission will receive recommendations from a number of themed working groups and will be supported by the Council to run a public engagement process.

In the longer term there is the opportunity for the Commission to transition into an independent body that can support and hold the Council to account for the delivery of the action plan.

Scope

The Croydon Climate Crisis Commission will be an independent body governed by a board of appointed commissioners and members.

The Commission will play a key role in engaging the wider Croydon community and businesses large and small in the transition to net zero and is expected to forge alliances with a diverse range of groups and stakeholders.

As an independent entity, the Commission is not limited in the breadth of its considerations but will be guided by evidence and expertise on how to achieve the carbon neutrality target. The

¹ 'Local economy' relates to the 'lived experience of the local economy'. This is the way in which the local economy functions to shape the lived experience of people within an area. The economy is understood holistically as the system by which resources are generated and transferred between people, as a means to generate wellbeing within environmental limits

Commission will build on the work of the Croydon Citizens' Assembly, which concluded in March 2020.

The Commission will be provided with a baseline assessment of the Borough's carbon emissions, commissioned by the Council. This will be used to prioritise activity and monitor and report progress.

Key functions of the commission include:

- Build on the momentum created by the school climate strikes, Extinction Rebellion, and many other climate campaigners and groups.
- Carry forward the work of Croydon's Citizens' Assembly on climate, and develop an action plan for Croydon to become carbon neutral by 2030.
- Bring experts from the community, business, science and politics together to design and fund new carbon neutral projects.
- Keeping Croydon on track to hit its 2030 carbon neutral target, and engaging with anchor institutions in Croydon and the surrounding area to ensure this is achieved.
- Partnering with other Commissions and groups around the country to lobby for the changes needed from national and regional Government to allow us to achieve our ambitions.

The independent Commission is an evolving organisation which will develop over the next few months. Throughout this time there will be many opportunities for Croydon residents to get involved, within social distancing rules and restrictions.

Membership

The Chair of the Commission is appointed by the Council. The Chair is Miatta Fahnbulleh, CEO of the New Economics Foundation.

The Commission's membership brings together representatives from across the Croydon community. Membership of the Commission is drawn from the following groups:

- Local anchor institutions
- Croydon community representatives
- Technical specialists

The following commissioners have been appointed:

Cllr Nina Degrad	Croydon Council
Cllr Muhammad Ali	Croydon Council
Cllr Simon Hoar	Croydon Council
Michael Burden	Croydon Heath Services NHS Trust
Ann-Christine Harland	Croydon College
Jonathan Sharrock	Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership
Esther Sutton	The Oval Tavern
Peter Underwood	Friends of the Earth
Kim Onyiah	Croydon Citizens' Assembly
Silvia Sanchez	Croydon Citizens' Assembly
Martin Graham	TUC
Russell Smith	Retrofit Works
Candice Howarth	London School of Economics

Ian Morris	Croydon Voluntary Action
TBC	Youth Commissioner

Working groups

The Commission will be advised by working groups that will take an in-depth look at specific areas.

The working groups will be made up of 12-15 people with expertise and experience of the areas being considered. Each working group will be chaired by a member of the Commission. The scope of the groups will be to consider the actions in their area and produce a report to the Commission on their recommended actions. The working groups will review available evidence and hear from subject matter experts as they produce their reports.

The structure and Chairs of the working groups was agreed at the first meeting of the Commission as follow:

- Adaptation and resilience (Candice Howarth)
- Jobs, skills and employment (Jonathan Sharrock)
- Housing, planning and built environment (Russell Smith)
- Transport and energy (Major infrastructure) (Peter Underwood)
- Awareness, Engagement and Communications (Cllr Nina Degrads, Kim Onyiah)

The working groups will draw on the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly and will develop technical action plans that the Commission will synthesise and prioritise. There are important cross-cutting issues that will need to be considered across the groups. The groups will work closely together supported by the Commissioners.

Terms of reference for the working groups are included at Annex 1.

Outputs

The initial output of the Commission will be a set of recommendations in the form of an action plan delivered to Croydon Council that sets out steps to be taken to transition the Borough to its carbon neutral target by 2030 in a just way as part of its recovery from the pandemic. These will consider the immediate term of the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Whilst delivered to the Council, the Commission consider recommendations for anchor institutions, the GLA and national government. The recommendations will be developed as the country is in the initial response and recovery phases of the coronavirus pandemic and a review point will be built in so they can be adjusted as necessary as the context changes.

Process and timescales

The intention is that the work of the Commission as set out in these Terms of Reference will proceed over a nine month period in three phases (N.B. Progress is likely to be impacted by the response to the Coronavirus pandemic, and timings will be revised accordingly):

1. Working groups are established and develop technical action plans that the Commission will synthesise and prioritise.
2. A period of Council-led engagement on a draft action plan and events (subject to government advice on social distancing and events). It is noted that the Commission will not be able to do as much engagement in advance of agreeing its initial recommendations as previously hoped before the coronavirus pandemic.

3. The Commission consider the responses to engagement and present a recommended action plan to the Council.

At a high level we expect this to look like:

Phase	Month	Tasks
1	March:	Launch event 12 th March
	May:	First Commission meeting - to agree terms of reference, timeline and structure of working groups Working groups set up and members invited
	July – September:	Working Groups - use Citizens’ Assembly recommendations and carbon priorities identified through the carbon baseline to develop action plans
	July:	Second Commission meeting - to review progress of the working groups and hear lessons learnt from other place based commissions
	September/ October:	Third Commission meeting - to review and distil technical action plans into recommendations for an action plan
2	September – November:	Put action plan to public through Council-led engagement and events as far as is possible under social distancing measures
3	November:	Forth Commission meeting - to consider feedback on engagement and to discuss institutional questions.
	December:	Fifth Commission meeting - to agree final recommendations, action plans and next steps

Communications

Communication, engagement and education are identified as priorities in addressing the climate change challenge. In addition to establishing a working group to develop recommendations on this, the Commission will also be supported by a communications strategy.

Longer Term

Following delivery of a recommended action plan to the Council, the Commission will consider a transition from its current scope to one of an independent body that can hold the Council to account for delivery. As this stage, the current Commission will develop recommended Terms of Reference for the next stage.

Independent of the structure of the Commission, the recommendations will include a review point at 12 months. This will be an opportunity to reflect on the recommendations and make adjustments to reflect a different economic position, progress made and any changes to national and local policy since the recommendations were agreed. This also reflects that the initial recommendations will be prepared whilst the country is in the initial response and recovery phase from the coronavirus pandemic.

Annex 1 Terms of Reference for Working Groups

Background

In June 2019 Croydon Council declared a climate and ecological emergency and undertook to implement a process for acting on this declaration by commissioning a climate citizens' assembly and developing a Climate Crisis Commission. The Council founded an independent Commission that will work in collaboration with the Council and the wider community, involve expert advice, and engage and co-produce with the people of Croydon, with the aim of driving forward radical action to decarbonise the local economy in a just and fair way. The Commission will be supported and advised by a number of working groups that will focus on particular subjects in detail.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the working groups is to provide the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission with recommendations for actions related to the subject each group is considering to drive rapid reductions in the carbon emissions in the Borough of Croydon, targeting carbon neutral by 2030. These will be considered by the Commission as it prepares an action plan that will be subject to engagement with the people of Croydon and then delivered to the Council.

Scope

Each working group will play a key role in supporting the Commission in engaging the wider Croydon community in the transition to net zero and is expected to forge alliances with a diverse range of groups and stakeholders.

The scope of the groups will be determined by the Chair and will consider the actions in their area and produce a report to the Commission on their recommended actions. The working groups should consider their recommendations against the aims of the Commission, to drive forward action to decarbonise the local economy in a just and fair way. The working groups will review available evidence and hear from subject matter experts as they produce their reports. The working groups will build on the work of the Croydon Citizens' Assembly, which concluded in March 2020. There are important cross-cutting issues that will need to be considered across the groups. The groups will work closely together supported by the Commissioners.

Membership

Each working group will be chaired by a member of the Commission. The working groups will be made up of 12-15 people with expertise and experience of the areas being considered. The Chair will be responsible for determining and confirming the membership of each working group. The membership will be drawn from technical experts, Council advisors, members of the Citizens Assembly and members of the community.

Outputs

Each working group will produce a series of recommendations for the Commission to consider ahead of public engagement. The recommendations should include some short, medium and long term actions for the Council and other stakeholders.

Process and timescales

The intention is that the working groups will provide recommendations to the Commission by the Commission meeting at the end of August (N.B. Progress is likely to be impacted by the response to

the Coronavirus pandemic, and timings will be revised accordingly). The Chair of the working groups will determine the frequency of meetings.

At a high level we expect this to look like:

Month	Tasks
May:	First Commission meeting - to agree terms of reference, timeline and structure of working groups
June – September:	Working groups set up and members invited Working Groups use Citizens' Assembly recommendations and carbon priorities identified through the carbon baseline to develop action plans
July:	Second Commission meeting - to review progress of the working groups and hear lessons learnt from other place based commissions
September/ October:	Third Commission meeting - to review and distil technical action plans into recommendations for an action plan